

## CAP BEAM CENTER LOADING STRIPS

The use of timber center loading (strip or shim) as a method for transferring the load from stringers to cap beams has become more common. Center loading strips aid in transferring the vertical reaction load from stringer to cap beam. When center loading strips are used, it is critical that they are symmetrically located about a vertical line that passes through the webs of both the stringer and cap beams (see figures 1 and 2). This ensures the transfer of the force reactions through the webs of both beams and alleviates unwanted moment reactions.

The allowable compressive stress for timber shims with maximum thickness of 6 inches (150 mm) and loaded perpendicular to grain may be increased to 900 psi (6.2 MPa). This maximum thickness limitation eliminates excessive built-up between the cap and the stringer beam that could lead to stability problems. Where the shim is formed by multiple built-up sections, the maximum allowable compressive stress should not exceed 450 psi.

This revised allowable stress supersedes the allowable stress listed in Section 4-2.03D, "Compression Perpendicular to the Grain" of the Falsework Manual and in Section 51-1.06A (2), "Design Stresses, Loadings, and Deflections" of the Standard Specifications.

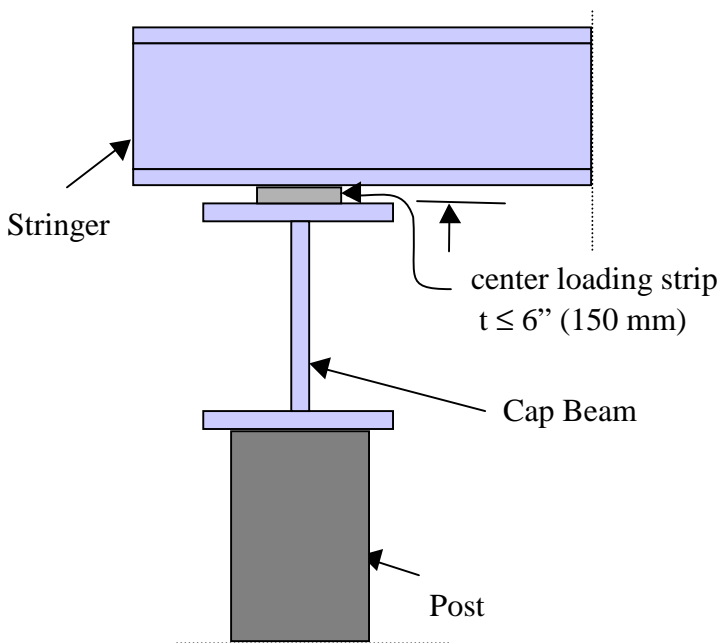


Figure 1

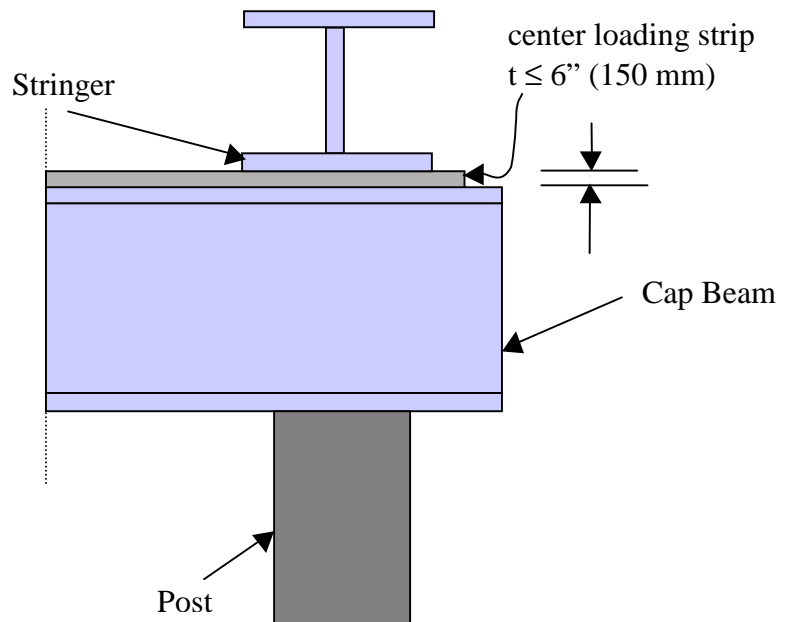


Figure 2